

MEETING WITH REV. FATHER JOHN FARRELL - 19/1092

We used as our discussion points the letter of 25 September, 1992, from Rev. Father Brian Lucas with its attached points for discussion.

I reminded John that he had eroded my trust in him with his publication in "The Armidale Express" of an article on Bishop O'Mahony and also on the fact that he had gone above my head in appealing to Bishop Heather as to whether he could do a wedding in the Parramatta Diocese.

I pointed out that it evidenced very much his lack of prudential judgement which was the principal reason why he is in the position in which he is now.

His reaction to that was to ask if I could suggest to him anyone who might be able to teach him prudential judgement. I suggested Father Bernard Flood whom he rejected immediately, Bishop Geoff Robinson whom he didn't object to, and Father David Walker whom he didn't object to. I pointed out to him that he had failed to keep his appointment with Father Brian Lucas on Friday 2 October. His response to this was that it had not been a formally arranged meeting anyway. His comment on the meeting which is arranged for the end of October with the Committee was that he may not be ready to formalize any arrangements by that time. He agreed with the points for discussion, in order:

1. He agreed with this, that it is true.
2. That it is subject to ongoing review.
3. He rejected on the grounds that he had no desire to go ahead with this proposal.
4. He was prepared to then discuss the points from 5 onwards.
5. He disagreed with 5.2. He disagreed with 5.3, and put up the contrary proposal that he could act as a chaplain to a retired peoples' home. 5.4, he was prepared to co-operate with this. 5.5 was not mentioned, nor was 5.6, nor 5.7. Although in regard to 5.6 he did mention that this person was not intended to be an advisor, but a person who would report back to the Committee.
6. He is quite aware of No. 6 and is ready to co-operate in that.